The Field Museum

Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
May 18, 2001

Flynn Gets Guggenheim

John Flynn in Chile, 1996
GE086065c

A full-page announcement in the April 23 *New York Times* included **John Flynn** (Geology) among the awardees for this year's prestigious Guggenheim Fellowships. As noted in the announcement, "Guggenheim Fellows are appointed on the basis of unusually impressive achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment" and are intended to "further the development of artists and scholars by assisting those selected ... to do research in any field of knowledge under the freest possible conditions."

The 2000-2001 competition included 2,728 applicants and 183 awards (overall success rate of about 15% or 1/7)—only about 15% of the fellows are scientists, as the great majority of annual awards support the creative arts or humanities.

Flynn's Guggenheim project, titled "The interplay of evolution and geologic change in South America," will include a year of research and writing in Chile and elsewhere in South America. The focus of his study will be to determine how South America's rich fossil mammal biota (viewed both as specific evolutionary lineages or groups, and broader assemblages or communities) recorded, and evolved in response to, the complex interplay of regional and global climatic, tectonic, sea level, and environmental changes over the past 65 million years. South America provides an ideal system to examine such questions, as its isolation as an "island continent" during that period reduces the number of variables influencing biologic responses to geologic changes. The project uses the Andes Mountains as a model system for distinguishing regional and global changes, and assessing evolutionary dynamics across varying time and geographic scales. These studies will include analyses of the events from particular geological "time-slices" or "moments in time" (case-studies drawn from his 16 years of on-going research and fieldwork in the Andes of Chile and Colombia) and those that span longer intervals (using "time series" of samples from different places and geologic horizons).

FIELD NOTES

Week May 21, 2001

Staff/Volunteer Events

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor
- Thursday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor

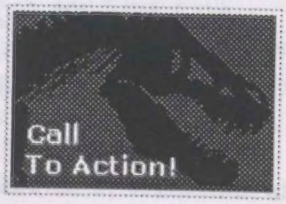
Tae Bo Class
- Monday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor

Soccer!
- Saturday, 10:00 a.m. Grant Park (for details see inside)

Green Sheet Meeting
- Wednesday, 3 p.m., FP&O Conference Room

Natural News Is Online
- http://intranet1/natural_news/

Public/Campus Events



Kinetosaurs
- Exhibition Continues

Wrapped in Pride
- Exhibition Continues

Kachinas
- Exhibition Continues

Insects: 105 Years of Collecting
- Exhibition continues

The Natural News *is published by the Human Resources Department.*

Submissions can be emailed to Mark Schmeltzer (mschmeltzer@fmnh.org) Or delivered to him via interoffice mail to the Office of Institutional Advancement

The deadline for next week's issue is WEDNESDAY, May 23 at noon.

Turn in time sheets one day early next week!

Due to the Memorial Day Holiday on Monday May 28th, time sheets are to be turned in by noon, Thursday, May 24th. As always, we appreciate your cooperation.

Randy Scalf
HR

Exhibitions Department Wins MUSE Awards at AAM Meetings

Congratulations to the Sue Exhibition Team on winning two MUSE Awards at this year's AAM meeting. These awards recognize excellence in all varieties of media programs produced by or for museums. The two video programs that won in the category "Interpretation and Education in Science" are:

Gold: "Fact, Theory, and Speculation"
Honorable Mention: " Our Ever-Changing Image of T. Rex"

Special acknowledgements go to **Barbara Ceiga** and **Becky Ackerman**, who directed the work of the video producers, Angle Park Inc. Film and Video. Also a big thank you to the scientists who spent many hours being filmed to create the gold-award-winning video: **Olivier Rieppel**, **John Flynn**, **Bill Turnbull**, **Matt Carrano**, and **Chris Brochu**.

Francie-Muraski Stotz, Exhibitions

Upwardly Mobile

I am delighted to announce two internal promotions in the Education Department. **Erica Kelly**, formerly one of our temporary exhibitions coordinators for education programs, is now our Education Funding Coordinator. In her new capacity, Erica will work closely with members of Institutional Advancement and Education, as well as other Museum staff, to develop and implement funding strategies for our programs.

Eduarda Briseño, who has been working with the Park Voyagers program and developing school programs, is our new Project Coordinator for Exhibitions. She will be responsible for overseeing activities related to fall programs for *Julie Taymor: Playing with Fire* and *Sigmund Freud: Conflict and Culture* in 2001. Exhibitions for 2002 she will focus on are *Chocolate; Living Colors: A Butterfly Garden; Pearls;* and *Bamboo Masterworks.*

As Erica transitions out of her former position, I will inherit *Cleopatra of Egypt: From History to Myth* and *Tiniest Giants.* Please join me in congratulating Erica and Eduarda! I look forward to working with them both in their new positions.

Lisa Niziolek, Education

Natural Use

Do you have unwanted furniture? Could you make use of used furniture? Please contact **Julie Baker** at ext. 7241 for help in reusing and recycling furniture.

Thanks to our new and improved phone list, e-mailing staff and departmental contacts is easier than ever. You can e-mail colleagues and reduce paper usage. For e-mails that do not need to go to the entire Museum, but to various departments, e-mail the department contact person and ask for their assistance in forwarding the e-mail throughout their group.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Anthropology's Andris Bids Goodbye

The Department of Anthropology regrets to announce the resignation, effective May 21, 2001, of Ms. Ruth Ingeborg Andris. Ruth has served the Museum in various capacities since the summer of 1949, when she began full-time work as secretary and illustrator in the Department of Zoology. Since 1971, Ruth has served as Restorer in Conservation for the Department of Anthropology, where she has applied her many artistic and technical skills to projects ranging from the *King Tut* exhibition to the desalination of 5,000 year-old pottery, the restoration of totem poles, Indian paintings, Han figurines, and most recently, a Buddhist shrine. Ruth is perhaps best known about the Museum for her labor of love—the Malvina Hoffman statue collection. She has worked tirelessly to educate the public about this unique collection and ensure that it is preserved in perpetuity for future generations to enjoy.

At one time or another, many of Ruth's family members also worked at the Museum, including her sister-in-law, a niece, and a nephew. As we approach Member's Nights, 2001, it is interesting to note that Ruth met her future husband, the late William Andris, at the Museum's first Member's Night fifty years ago, in 1951. Ruth will indeed be sorely missed. On behalf of the Department and the entire Museum, we thank Ruth for her many contributions and perpetual good cheer, wish her luck in all her future endeavors, and hope that she will not remain a stranger to an institution to which she has given so much.

Steve Nash and **Gary Feinman**
Anthropology

Anthropology Curators Receive National Science Foundation Grants

Chap Kusimba (Associate Curator of African Anthropology), **Sibel Kusimba** (Adjunct Curator of African Anthropology and Program Developer in Education Department), and **Antonio Curet** (Assistant curator of Caribbean Anthropology) have been awarded National Science Foundation Grants. Chap and Sibel have received $146,702, which will enable them to continue archaeological and ethnographic research in the Tsavo region of southeastern Kenya. Chap and Sibel are studying how small-scale but diverse societies participated in and were impacted by burgeoning trading systems that moved ivory, precious metals, agricultural foodstuffs, ceramics, textiles, human beings and cultural knowledge across port cities of the Old World during the late Holocene. The Kusimba's will be accompanied in the field by Field Museum photographer **John Weinstein** and their students **Rahul Oka, Kara Babrowski, Carie Burkhardt** (UIC), and **Stephen Duepper** (University of Michigan).

Antonio's grant of $60,000 will enable him to conduct a remote sensing study at Tibes, Puerto Rico. Tibes is the earliest known ceremonial center in the Caribbean. He is collaborating with Dr. Lee Newsom of the department of Anthropology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Antonio will be taking Field Museum/UIC students and volunteers to the Field.

Chap/Sibel and Antonio's grants bring the number of active NSF grants in the Anthropology Department to five. The other recipients are **Gary Feinman** and **Linda Nicholas** (Oaxaca, Mexico), **Anne Underhill** and **Gary Feinman** (China), **Patrick Ryan** Williams (Cerra Baiul, Peru). This may be more than any other university or museum anthropology department in this country.

Kris Allison, Anthropology

Spring Symposium Success

The Department of Geology has the pleasure to announce the great success of this year's annual A. Watson Armour III Annual Symposium, titled *"The Paleobiology and Phylogenetics of Large Theropods"* held at the Field Museum on Saturday, May 12. The spring symposium series is a great scientific tradition for the Museum, now in its third decade since its founding by Curator Emeritus (Geology) **Matt Nitecki**.

Some 200 people attended over the course of the day-long symposium, intended to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the public unveiling of Sue, by highlighting research on this spectacular skeleton, and other large meat-eating (the clade, or group, called theropods) dinosaurs. Field Museum Geology Research Associates **Matt Carrano** and **Chris Brochu**, responsible for many of the first scientific studies on Sue reported at the opening last May, served as co-organizers of the symposium. As with the Museum's earliest research on Sue, we especially wanted to encourage scientists in the early stages of their professional careers, and to bring fresh and innovative insights into the biology of dinosaurs. On Sunday, the Field Museum Education Department hosted a public lecture to complement the scientific symposium, presented to some 65 attendees by Phil Currie (also a speaker on Saturday) of the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology.

This symposium nicely highlighted how Sue fulfills the three core missions of our institution:

1) it augments the world-class collections that form the heart of the Museum (we did not have a *T. rex* prior to the Museum providing a permanent home),
2) its spectacular completeness, exceptional quality of preservation, and fascinating story provide the basis for vibrant exhibition and educational programs, and,
3) Sue is of great scientific research significance.

Within this context, the symposium represents the last major scientific component to the initial phase of the Sue project, spanning the preparation and articulation (mounting), development of the science-rich exhibit and Web site, two National Geographic articles and several Scholastic books highlighting the scientific research, creation of the permanent public McDonald's Fossil Preparation Lab and associated research preparator positions, Brochu's publication on Sue's braincase and his monographic study of Sue (in review for a major scientific journal), and creation and hiring of a new curatorship specializing on dinosaurs (**Pete Makovicky**, a symposium speaker, who will join the museum staff in July).

The symposium produced an outstanding suite of scientific presentations and deep and stimulating discussion during both the morning and afternoon sessions. Chicago's major daily newspapers covered the science of the symposium in extensive articles (including a cover story in Friday's *Chicago Tribune*), while *National Geographic*, *University of Chicago Press*, and other publications sent representatives to the conference. The department and the co-organizers intend to coordinate a conference proceedings book, which will provide a lasting summary of its research impact. Following some history of Sue at the Field Museum and welcoming remarks by John Flynn and discussion of why huge theropods are so fascinating by Chris Brochu, Saturday's speakers presented a huge range of exciting work. **John Hutchinson** and **Matt Carrano** discussed speed and locomotion and the biomechanical effects of huge size in a two-legged animal. **Leon Claessens** discussed theropod breathing inferred from x-ray studies of living animals and analysis of the chest and trunk bones of fossils ; **Beth Rega** examined potential causes for the wide array of pathologies or abnormalities on Sue's skeleton and skull; **Hans Larsson** explored application of novel developmental biology studies to understanding the transformation of hands and fingers in the transition from theropods to birds. **Phil Currie**, **Rodolfo Coria**, **Tom Holtz**, **Chris Brochu**, and **Pete Makovicky** gave a "mini-course" on the phylogeny (evolutionary relationships) and biogeography of theropods (including: hypotheses about how many times large size evolved and what that meant for skulls and skeletons in theropods; where and when did theropods diversify; which dinosaurs were the closest relatives to *T. rex*; and what new information a spectacular skeleton like Sue can bring to these studies). Congratulations and thanks are due to the co-organizers and all the speakers for a fascinating day.

We would like to thank **Elaine Zeiger**, **Carter O'Brien**, **Karen Nordquist** and **Gina Wesley** (Geology), **Karsten Lawson** (Academic Affairs, VP Office), **Carlita Wilds** (Special Events), **Michael Godow** (Library), **Greg Borzo** (Public Relations), **Ramon** (Cisco) **Alba & Jose Mendez** (Housekeeping), and **Flynn Jefferson** and **Mentee Teah** (Audio Visual) for all of their hard work "behind the scenes." The symposium simply couldn't have happened without their contributions.

We would also like to thank the following departments for their help and assistance: **FP&O, Housekeeping, Protection Services, Visitor Services** and **Corner Bakery.**

Carter O'brien, *Geology*

NEWS FROM MUSEUM CAMPUS CHICAGO

In collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Special Events and the Chicago Architecture Foundation, the Museum Campus is one of the tours featured in this weekend's city festival, "Great Chicago Places and Spaces". The festival (Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20) offers 120 free walking, trolley and neighborhood guided tours, uncovering the many treasures we enjoy in Chicago every day—a city rich in architectural wonders and landscape design.

So, celebrate earth, sea, sky and architecture and encourage guests, friends and family to partake in this third annual festival. The Museum Campus FREE hour-long, outdoor tour will be offered at noon on Saturday and Sunday. The tour will highlight the facades of the three museums, sculptures, and the history of Museum Campus Chicago.

For registration information, please visit www.cityofchicago.org/specialevents and click on the Great Chicago Places and Spaces icon for information.

Christina Breslow
Museum Campus

Sartore Serves Salmon for Right Bite photo lecture

National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore, who dazzled his audience at last fall's "Treasures and Terrors" Amazon lecture series, returns Thursday, June 7, to kick off Shedd Aquarium's Right Bite celebration with stunning photos and the compelling story of the Pacific Northwest's mighty salmon.

Sartore's work has taken him to Alaska, Canada and the Columbia River system in Washington and Oregon to document the plight of endangered salmon stocks. In this presentation, he'll explain the factors leading to the salmon's decline, show the importance of this fish to native cultures as well as commercial fisheries, and illustrate the dramatic measures biologists have taken to try to save the endangered Snake River sockeye. He also puts the fate of salmon into context with the survival of the Pacific Northwest ecosystem.

Through his travels on assignment for *National Geographic*, Sartore has become a strong advocate for the environment. He teams his outstanding photos with a lively, knowledgeable narrative to create persuasive and hopeful presentations on behalf of Earth's imperiled ecosystems.

This special event begins at 6 p.m. with a private reception in the Bubble Net restaurant including cocktails and a buffet. The presentation begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are $40 for Shedd members or Field Museum and Chicago Park District Staff and Volunteers and $30 for youth ages 12 to 16 with Shedd member or Field Museum and Chicago Park District Staff/Volunteers. This event is recommended for those 12 and older. Ticket prices also include admission to *Jazzin' at the Shedd* before and after the lecture. For reservations, call 312-692-3333. Please ask the reservationist to charge you the members' rate.

Michelle Johnson,
ECP

Field Forum: Exploring the Sources of the Amazon River Explorers Zbigniew Bzdak, Piotr Chmielinski, Andrew A. Pietowski

Unravel the origins of the Amazon with the explorers who have finally pinpointed the source of this magnificent river. After plaguing explorers for centuries, this mystery was solved by a five-nation expedition, using state-of-the-art mapping technology with support from National Geographic and the Smithsonian Institution. Enjoy breathtaking photographs and riveting first-person accounts. This lecture will be offered in English and in Polish. Three Polish-American explorers played a vital role on the expedition team.

Lecture in Polish: Saturday, May 19, 1:00 p.m.
Lecture in English: Saturday, May 19, 3:00 p.m.

Cost is $15; student/educator $12; members $10.
Ticket includes admission to both The Field Museum, Shedd Aquarium, including the *Amazon Rising* exhibition.

Presented jointly by The Field Museum, Shedd Aquarium and The Polish Museum of America.

Encarnacion Teruel, *Education*

City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Mayor's Office of
Special Events

James Law
Executive Director

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http://www.ci.chi.il.us

NEWS RELEASE

March

Media Contact: Veronica Resa (312) 744-5648 Editor's Note: Photos are available digitally

Bike Chicago 2001 Unveils Highlights (May 18 - JUNE 17)

The Mayor's Office of Special Events and Kryptonite Bicycle Locks present Bike Chicag Experience over 30 days of bike fun including a Lake Shore Drive ride, boulevard tours, s events, exhibitions, a commuter challenge, parades and educational workshops.

This year is the tenth annual event and Bike Chicago has progressed from one week to ov days, encompassing more than 95 bike related events at several sites throughout Chicago suburbs. Bike Chicago was fashioned in 1991 to promote cycling as a means of transport and for recreational purposes.

What is New

The Chicago Public Library celebrates cycling with six new and FREE innovative progra adults and children including storytelling and finding the perfect bike and helmet fit. Adu workshops include commuting by bike, bike etiquette and bike safety. Visit your local lib for bike maps as well as books and videos on cycling. For more information call your bra library or visit the Library's Web site at www.chicagopubliclibrary.org. For general inform call 312-747-4300.

This is Cool

Bike to Work Week - May 18 to May 25, 2001

Bike commuters can join the fun during the **Bike to Work Day Rally,** 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m Friday, May 18, at Daley Plaza. All activities are FREE including, raffles, and bike check- Each participant will receive a Bike Chicago 2001 t-shirt and breakfast.

Join the fun as **Mayor Daley's Lakefront Bike Ride** moves from Friday to 10 a.m., Satur May 19. This scenic, non-competitive 13.5 mile ride along the lakefront starts at Queen's Landing (Congress and the Lakefront) and is fun for the entire family. A post celebration i planned complete with food, prizes and entertainment. Early bird registration $10.00 - afte 12 $12.00.

On June 17 (Father's Day), Mayor Daley invites you to **Ride on Lake Shore Drive** in the 13th Annual **Boulevard Lakefront Tour**. This is the 2nd year cyclists are offered this sceni view from the drive. All northbound lanes of the Drive from 63rd to 31st Street will be open bicyclists ***ONLY.*** For more information call, 312-42-PEDAL or visit the website: www.RideBLT.com

And Check Out the Park

The **Chicago Park District** offers a variety of cycling programs and events throughout Bik Chicago 2001 including bike parades, bike art projects, tours, rodeos, bike repair and safety classes for children and adults of all ages. For more information visit your local park or cal 312-742-PLAY, visit the website www.chicagoparkdistrict.org/

Bike Chicago 2001 is presented by the **Mayor's Office of Special Events and Kryptonite Bicycle Locks,** in cooperation with the Chicago Area Bicycle Dealers Association, the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, Chicago Department of Transportation, the Chicago Park District, Chicago Police Department and the Messenger Service Association of Illinois. For more information call the Mayor's Office of Special Events, 312-744-3315 or visit the website www.cityofchicago.org/specialevents/

NEIGHBORHOODS

BUILDING CHICAGO TOGETHER

Faces in the Field

Many thanks to all staff who have helped work on Faces in the Field. From pouring clay masks and taking photos, from stuffing envelops to delivering blue boxes, from brainstorming to making posters....your help and hard work is appreciated.

June 8th
7:00 pm
Stanley Field Hall

Finally, the wait is almost over...**Faces in the Field** celebrates The Field Museum's collection of nearly 6,000 masks from around the world and features an auction of more than 100 masks created by famous faces such as Bill Cosby, Yoko Ono, Victor Skrebneski and John Travolta. View and bid on expressive works of art. Discover the rarest treasures of The Field Museum's priceless mask collection. Experience a culturally infused menu, riveting sounds and captivating performances representing the many faces of the collection.

We would like to offer staff and volunteers two tickets to the event for $50 each...50% less than the regular ticket price! Each additional ticket is full price ($100). To purchase tickets, please fill out the form below and return it to Kristina Thiel.

Attend for Free!
If you would like to volunteer to help at the event, please contact Anita Purnell at apurnell@fmnh.org or at extenion X8110.

Name_____Dept._____

Extension_____Email_____

_____ Yes! I would like to purchase one/two (please circle) tickets to Faces in the Field at $50 each.

_____ I would like to purchase _____additional tickets at $100 each

Enclosed is my check payable to The Field Museum for $_____

Please charge $_____ to my:
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Credit card number _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

Please return this form to Kristina Thiel/President's Office.
If you have any questions, please call 665-7221.

Baker's Corner

By Paul Baker

We were sitting outdoors at the picnic tables having lunch when we started to reminisce about the "good-old fries" served by the big M. They were of all different widths and lengths. This made me realize how uniform in size the new ones are. Which led me to consider the standardization of all of their products. And, following logically, why not use these new standards to measure and describe everything.

After all, the size of a standard "foot" was once determined by whatever king was in power at the time, and a "yard" was the distance from his nose tip to the end of his forefinger. I had to dig up some long-forgotten formulae and Euclidean concepts and dust off my slide-rule in order to satisfy my curiosity.

I figure that straws and, roughly, hamburgers, are cylinders. Cups are truncated cones. Packets of salt and barbeque sauce have weight measures. The area of a hamburger patty, after cooking, can be established. The burger thickness is pretty well established, in all countries, as well.

I started simply enough: the Big-M patty, like the simple burger one, is about 3 inches in diameter, and a fully constructed Big-M is about 2 inches high and weighs in at about 7.6 ounces, occupying about 25 cubic inches. This means that: a person traditionally 6 "feet" high will be 36 "big-M"s tall, soaking wet, and the shower stall that person is in will hold about 6,100 big-Ms. In stark contrast, 54 (fill in 21 zeros) of them would be roughly equivalent to the volume of the Moon. A Moon made with special sauce and not made of green cheese is unthinkable.

A road 30 feet wide would require 120 of the little buggers across. That means we could travel on a road from New York to San Francisco passing 6,500,000,000 all-beef paving patties. A square mile, anywhere on Earth, could be covered by 142,000,000 of the meat disks. (This thought leads me down the mental cul-de-sac of converting meat patty area to forest to pasture to cows back to patties. Hmmm.)

I was surprised to learn that a M-straw will hold about one-and-a half teaspoons of liquid. This means that the next bath you take in your 34 gallon tub can be enjoyed after 17,000 strawfuls of water are added. And what about drinks? It only takes 1,020,000,000 child's-size sodas to fill up the world's largest oil tanker. Maybe the folks in Siragusa can help organize the effort.

Try the exercise yourself using plastic containers of their varied delicious sauces served with the 11.7 cubic inch M-nuggets. The six and three-quarters teaspoon barbeque sauce or the three and a half teaspoon honey containers will make for sprightly conversation at your next dinner party.

Lest we forget, there is nutritive value to be gained. One big-M will produce enough energy for my boss to play golf for two hours or for me to watch movies for 9 hours. There seems to be no end to the measurements to be formed from a visit to the M-café.

I haven't even touched upon the timing of burger and fry preparation, ice cream gushing, heat lamp temperature or paper product composition. And, if we are what we eat, all of the statistics for our bodies and related materials could be expressed in "food bundles," "food-arc-ohms," "nano-fat globules per second," etc. An injection at the doctor of the future may require "three flat pickle volumes" of penicillin.

Come to think of it, why leave out all of my other favorite foods? It's only 34,000,000 Junior Mint© preparation units until payday!

BOOKWMN SPEAKS

By Paula Ramos

When I started at The Field, my boss in Education, Bether, would send me up to the 4th floor to Graphics to leave folders of work for someone named Jean Cattell. The upstairs was a foreign place to me then; I would bumble around lost for a while and then accidentally stumble across her office. Her space was continually brimming over with changing projects; beautiful things in the works, some finished and some not, nifty pictures and drawings, long lists and restful lighting. I liked the friendly people I met along the way and the welcoming atmosphere of her office but I began to believe that this Jean person was non-existent, as months went by and I had never met her. I surmised there must have been a band of elves who worked on and completed those jobs and proofs that I had been constantly dropping off in her corner office. Those plain folders of words and sketches, that I had abandoned just days before, were quickly transformed into stylish sample brochures of color and beauty. I was always delighted to see them first and then fetch them back down to the McCarter Garden Level, where the Education staff would give them the final once-over.

Fortunately, for The Field Museum, Jean Cattell is a real person and I do mean REAL! Working with her on the SUE NEEDS A VOICE IN SPRINGFIELD project and several Guest Relations ventures has heightened my appreciation for the Graphics Department in general and my admiration for Jean's keen eye, savvy intelligence and elegant wit in particular.

Hit with my bevy of questions, during what surely must be the season of Hades and deadlines, Jean was quick with her reply! Please enjoy this eclectic slice of her reading life!

"What did I read as a child? Not much... I spent my childhood trashing my knees in the adventureland that was Skokie, in the 1960's. Couldn't be bothered reading. My mother, an avid reader, found this annoying and used to say, 'Honey, you don't know what you're missing.' The lesson? If I'd listened to my mother and read more as a kid, I would be a faster reader today." Creative play is a child's work and Jean was really practicing cause and effect when she was "trashing" those knees, a very critical skill that is needed to develop one into an effective reader and lifetime learner, such as she has become.

Jean continues on to say, "These are the books I'm plodding through lately. *Nine Parts of Desire, The Hidden World of Islamic Women," by Geraldine Brooks.* The title refers to the Koran and the belief that when God was handing out desire, he gave one part to men and nine parts to women. *A Star Called Henry*, by Roddy Doyle, is a wild ride through the Dublin of 1916 and the Easter Uprising told through the eyes of a hapless cog in the wheel." Jean displays the mark of a truly gifted human; reading more than one book at a time demonstrates the ability to both focus on the singular and diversify with the many, simultaneously. She adds," *Elizabeth, The Struggle for the Throne*, by David Starkey, is a wonderfully written account of the early years of Elizabeth I in the treacherous Tudor court." And there is more! ...

The little girl from Skokie, now grown, has made up for lost time. "I have recently read a couple of books that are still with me and floating around in my thoughts. *The Burden of Bad Ideas, How Modern Intellectuals Misshape Our Society*, by Heather Mac Donald. This book is an incendiary device. Throughout a dozen chapters, she argues that the nation, steered by liberal ideologues with 60's hangovers and led by New York City's bad example, is metamorphosing into a disfunction-enabler. Case workers on every corner; individual responsibility a bygone virtue. She is an ex-liberal gone conservative and although some of her opinions, I believe, are too strong, she does raise some very interesting points; especially the chapter on the Smithsonian and their efforts to become more relevant. *Sun Dancing,* by Geoffery Moorehouse, is a book about the remote monastic life of Irish Monks from the 6th through the 13th century; so beautifully written that it really struck a chord with me and remains at my bedside for inspiration." Bonnie, Jean! Very, very, bonnie!

"To divert at any time a troublesome fancy, run to thy books; they presently fix thee to them and drive the other out of thy thoughts. They always receive thee with the same kindness."—Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)

PSSSSSSSST!!
COME SEE ME & MY FRIENDS AT.....

THE STAFF AND VOLUNTEER PREVIEW OF.....

LIVING COLORS:
A BUTTERFLY GARDEN

WHEN: Tuesday, May 22, 2001
WHERE: Southeast Terrace (weather permitting)
Rice Hall (rain location)
TIME: 1:00pm-3:00pm
SPEAKER: Paul Goldstein, Assistant Curator, Zoology-Insects

Come stroll through this delightful garden, learn about butterfly biology and conservation efforts and marvel at nature's fragile beauty.

Every staff member and volunteer who joins us for this preview will receive a button to commemorate this exhibit preview. These buttons will ONLY be given out at the preview. Light snacks will be served.

Hope to see you there!!!